

Remarks/Arguments:

The applicant and his representative have fully considered the Office Action of March 15, 2006 and offer the above amendments in conjunction with these remarks. Reconsideration of claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 is respectfully requested in light thereof.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite a particular embodiment of the present invention not found in any known prior art. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite the embodiment wherein the receiver opening (in its at-rest position) is sized to be smaller than the barrel or barrel extension which is to be anchored in the receiver. This embodiment is disclosed in the current specification at page 8, lines 8-19. Specifically, claim 1 now recites that the front recess of the receiver has "an at-rest position smaller than the outer dimension of the barrel or barrel extension which it is sized to receive."

This aspect of the present invention is disclosed as beneficial because during manufacture or assembly of the firearm, the claimed receiver can be enlarged to allow insertion of the "over-sized" barrel or barrel extension, after which the force can be removed such that the receiver attempts to return to its at-rest position and thereby clamps the barrel or barrel extension in place. Note the description in the specification beginning at page 8, line 15, "a mechanical leverage can be applied to the sides of the receiver that are separated by slit 125 and which form front recess 122 so as to pry them apart and allow the insertion of a barrel or barrel extension. When the prying force is removed, the sides can return and clamp the barrel or barrel extension into place." The disclosure also contemplates the inclusion of using heat to allow receiver expansion and subsequent barrel or barrel extension insertion, whereby cooling allows the receiver to reduce in dimension toward to its original dimension and thereby clamp the barrel or barrel extension in place. *Id.*

Claim 5 has also been amended (essentially for consistency) to recite that the receiver is sized to receive a barrel extension after it is expanded from its at-rest position.

The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this embodiment. It is silent as to any dimensional relationship used to establish a connection between the barrel and receiver. Indeed, both references require some sort of additional clamping mechanism to secure the barrel to the receiver. CA 925334 to Perrine discloses the use of screws 25A and flange 17 "to secure the barrel 15" in its receiver. U.S. Patent No. 3,711,980 to Palama discloses the use of "screw 31" to affix the barrel to the receiver bore. There is no disclosure in these, or any other known, references, which teaches or suggests that which is now claimed in claim 1.

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For at least the reasons set forth above, in conjunction with the amendment to claim 1, the applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Because claims 2, 5, 7 and 8 all depend from claim 1, they too are in condition for allowance for at least the same reason.

A notice of allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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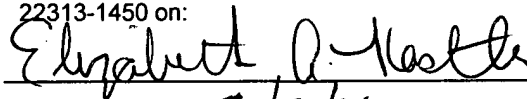
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